

**Amendment to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 23 (Currently amended): A redundant bus controller (RBC) for controlling access to a bus, comprising:

a peer coupling configured to communicate state information of the RBC to another bus controller for coordinating control of a bus between a plurality of system hosts;

a control and status register configured to retain the state information of the RBC; and

a sequencer configured to transition the RBC between a state in which the RBC is connected to controls access to the bus and a state in which the RBC is disconnected from is released from controlling access to the bus according to the state information retained in the control and status register.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The redundant bus controller as claimed in claim 23, further comprising a register interface coupled with an arbiter.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The redundant bus controller as claimed in claim 24, wherein the arbiter is configured to define the state of the RBC.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The redundant bus controller as claimed in claim 24, further comprising an external bus interface to provide software access to the register interface.

Claim 27 (previously presented): The redundant bus controller as claimed in claim 23, wherein the RBC is coupled to the bus and is configured to transition into and out of control to allow a system host to control the bus.

Claim 28 (previously presented): The redundant bus controller as claimed in claim 27, wherein the RBC is configured to allow a system host to control a peripheral device on the bus.

Claim 29 (previously presented): The redundant bus controller as claimed in claim 23, wherein the RBC is configured to coordinate control of the bus by the plurality of system hosts.

Claim 30 (previously presented): The redundant bus controller as claimed in claim 29, wherein the RBC is configured to coordinate control of the bus in the event of failure of one of the plurality of system hosts.

Claim 31 (previously presented) The redundant bus controller as claimed in claim 23, wherein the peer coupling is configured to allow the RBC to signal a disconnecting state to the other bus controller.